

Minutes of the Dornsife College Faculty Council Meeting

November 12 , 2014

3:00-5:00 pm

Present: Eric Webb (President), Darren Ruddell (Vice President), Jeff Chisum (Secretary), Farida Habeeb, Kyung Moon Hwang, Ann Crigler, Ed McCann, Lowell Stott, Wiebke Ziebis, Gerald Davison, Erin Moore, Jason Fulman, Thieo Hogan-Esch

1. Review of Dean Kay's Visit: The Council again discussed the information gleaned from Dean Steve Kay's 10/1 visit to the DCFC, and re-identified faculty morale and Ph.D. program "best practices" as agenda items worth pursuing.

2. A Report on the 10/15 Meeting of the Academic Senate: President Webb and other members of the Council's Senate Caucus gave an account of the meeting, which was held at the Health Science campus:

--Ainsley Carry led a dialogue on security and student affairs issues, including means of dealing with sexual misconduct, a crackdown on hard liquor at student events, improving clarity of reporting procedures, and efforts to get bystanders involved in prevention. Additionally, there was some discussion of campus security, including a "just give it up" policy in the case of robbery: i.e., the university will simply replace stolen property. Also: campus cruisers will run until 2:45 a.m. year around, and Safety/Security Ambassadors will be posted year-round.

--A report was presented on the status of the Viterbi School of Engineering.

--An update (in the form of a PowerPoint presentation) on health benefits.

3. A Report on the 11/7 Sustainability Mini-Retreat: Vice President Ruddell gave a report on the Senate's Sustainability Mini-Retreat. Session leaders noted that USC currently holds a "bronze" ranking (approx.. 35 points out of a possible 100) per the STARS ("Sustainability assessment Tracking And Rating System") scale. Attendees formulated a 3-part plan for improving sustainability at USC in the following arenas: 1) Education review; 2) Research; and 3) Operations.

4. Agenda Items for DCFC Caucuses: The Council brainstormed agenda items for the four caucuses as follows:

The General Faculty Affairs Caucus will explore faculty development grants (and the ease of access to them), particularly as they relate to funding for computers and travel; parking issues; general morale; and teaching evaluations.

The Research Caucus: Agreed to take up the issue of pilot money for small(er) research projects, and to investigate means of offering support for grant-writing.

The Curricular Caucus intends to produce a memo for Dean Kay dealing with Ph.D. program “best practices,” and also to look into the question of NTT hiring vis-à-vis the new G.E. rollout.

The NTT Caucus wants to focus on developing better clarity in the merit review and promotion guidelines for research- and teaching-track faculty.

5. Concluding Remarks: President Webb announced the safety and security presentation for faculty (from DPS) is in the works. The Council also collectively agreed to table plans for a faculty morale survey.

The meeting wrapped up at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Chisum
Secretary, Dornsife Faculty Council